

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00768 040813Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

STR-04 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /059 W

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R 040621Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4968

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0768

FOL SENT USDA/FAS/WASHDC FROM CANBERRA 0719 AND PASSED FOR
YOUR INFO.

QTE: 1. TOFAS 42 FROM AGATTACHE FOR NOVOTNY.

GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION.

2. SUBJECT: CHINESE PURCHASE OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT.

3. THE SALE OF 1 MILLION MT OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT TO CHINA
HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN LOCAL PRESS. SOME
PAPERS HAVE LINKED THIS SALE WITH THE CANCELLATION OF
U.S. SALE OF 600,000 MT TO PRC.

4. THE BASIC TYPE OF WHEAT TO BE DELIVERED UNDER THE
CONTRACT WILL BE A.S.W. (AUSTRALIAN STANDARD WHITE) ALTHOUGH
THE BOARD HAS THE OPTION OF SUPPLYING SOME PRIME HARD AND
HARD WHEAT AS WELL AS GENERAL PURPOSE WHEAT. DEPENDING
ON CLAS OF WHEAT SHIPPED, THE VALUE COULD BE AROUND \$A120
MILLION. THE WHEAT WILL BE SHIPPED BETWEEN APRIL 1975
AND MARCH 1976.

5. THE SALE IS ON SIMILAR TERMS TO PREVIOUS CONTRACTS,
PAYMENT PLUS INTEREST WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF SHIPMENT. THE
SALE COMPLETES SECOND TRANSACTION OF A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT
BY THE CHINESE FOR THE PURCHASE OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT.

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6. THE CONTRACT FOR THE SALE WAS NEGOTIATED IN

MELBOURNE AND CANBERRA LAST WEEK WITH A DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS AND FOODSTUFF IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION FROM PEKING. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SALE WAS MADE DURING THE LAST DAY OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE TO GET MAXIMUM ATTENTION.

7. AT THE SAME TIME, THE WHEAT BOARD ANNOUNCED THAT DELEGATION WILL DEPART FOR SOUTH AMERICA TO SEEK MARKETS. THE DELEGATION WILL NOT ARRIVE IN CHILE UNTIL AFTER THE ACTU MEETS ON FEBRUARY 10 TO DECIDE ON THE AUSTRALIAN MARITIME UNION'S BAN ON TRADE WITH CHILE. ACTU ACTION LED TO CANCELLATION OF A \$A40 MILLION WHEAT SALE TO CHILE. THE DELGATION WILL VISIT PERU, COLUMBIA AND MEXICO IN ADDITION TO CHILE.

HARROP. UNQTE.

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